

velocity. Very interesting, in view of our modern theories, is the Epicurean doctrine, stressed by our present author, that, although atoms are physically indivisible, they have finite extension, and are to be considered as made up of small ultimate parts, *minima*. A chapter is consecrated to this doctrine of the minimum.

It is very strange that, without any given experimental basis, often with ridiculous arguments—as when he cites spontaneous generation as a proof that atoms have no sensations—Epicurus should have arrived at a conception of the atom so similar in its essence to our present-day atoms built up of electrons. It would seem that there is something inherently attractive for the human mind not only in an atomic theory, but also in an atomic theory of a particular kind. Dr. Atanasievitch's little book is well worthy of study by all interested in the history of scientific theories.

E. N. DA C. A.

*Among the Kara-Korum Glaciers in 1925.* By Jenny Visser-Horn. With contributions by Ph. C. Visser. Pp. xii + 303 + 25 plates. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1926.) 21s. net.

KARA-KORUM is the name of a pass, yet it has been applied not only to the range containing the pass, but also to a tangled mass of mountains lying far to the west. Exploration of this tangle has indicated that it consists of a series of ranges; so that the name Kara-Korum, as it is generally used, indicates a large district, rather than any particular range of mountains.

The area explored by Mr. and Mrs. Visser was limited to the headwaters of the Hunza River. The only way into most of the valleys lay through narrow gorges, occupied by rivers which were subject to sudden floods; so that the line of retreat was often closed for long periods. The party were actually imprisoned in this way in the Khunzirab valley, and were only saved from starvation by forcing their way over unknown glaciers and passes into the Shingshal valley. The glaciers in these valleys are unusually treacherous owing to the rapid melting of the ice under the tropical sun. Snow avalanches are common, but the greatest danger is caused by avalanches of stones. One such avalanche in the Hispar valley lasted for many hours, and filled the air with dust, producing the effect of a thick London fog.

The party successfully explored some of the largest glaciers in the world; the Batura glacier—37 miles of ice—and the chief glaciers in the Khunzirab and Shingshal valleys. The area traversed was mapped by Afraz. Gul Khan Sahib, whose services were lent by the Survey of India. Mrs. Visser, who makes little of her own exploits, crossed glaciers and passes the existence of which was unknown even to the natives of the district. Two Swiss guides accompanied the explorers, and to their expert knowledge of ice, and its habits, the expedition probably owed its escape from the hourly dangers due to floods and avalanches.

This book is illustrated by some excellent photographs.

*The Scientific Feeding of Animals.* By Prof. O. Kellner. Authorised translation by Dr. William Goodwin. Second edition, revised. Pp. xiii + 328. (London: Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 8s. 6d. net.

THE name of Kellner figures pre-eminently in the annals of the science of animal nutrition. Towards the end of the last century, at a time when little or no attention was being devoted in Great Britain to the elucidation of the scientific principles underlying the economic feeding of farm animals, Kellner was carrying out in Germany a series of classical researches which had the ultimate effect of raising the art of feeding to the level of a science. Indeed, the rapid progress which has been made in Great Britain during the last three decades in the development and application of the principles of feeding is, in large measure, a tribute to the excellence of Kellner's pioneer work.

Many students of animal nutrition science have had reason to feel grateful to Dr. Goodwin for the enthusiasm and initiative which led him, during the early years of the present century, to undertake the translation of Kellner's smaller text-book, "Grundzüge der Fütterungslehre." For many years this work stood unrivalled as a source of information to student, investigator, and farmer alike. The welcome appearance of a new English edition has afforded Dr. Goodwin the opportunity of including the additional matter contained in the latest German edition, which has been revised and brought up-to-date by Prof. Fingerling, who succeeded Kellner at Möckern. In particular, a new chapter on vitamins has been added. Despite these alterations, however, the book still remains, to quote Prof. Fingerling, "a masterpiece of clearness and precision." H. E. WOODMAN.

*True Irish Ghost Stories.* Compiled by Dr. St. John D. Seymour and Harry L. Neligan. Second edition, enlarged. Pp. lxxvii + 299. (Dublin: Hodges, Figgis and Co.; London: Oxford University Press, 1926.) 6d. net.

THE original collection of true Irish ghost stories appeared in 1919, and elicited a large number of additional examples which warranted a second and enlarged edition; but publication was delayed owing to the War. The re-issue is justified by the additions. The collection covers a wide range of phenomena. The three chapters which are devoted to haunted houses include some remarkable experiences, many of which are off the familiar track. One quoted from the *Occult Review* describes the apparition of what was clearly an elemental with characteristic hairless face and unpleasant stench. The *poltergeist* stories, as compared with some which have appeared recently in the Press in England, are, on the whole, disappointing as psychic manifestations, and indeed, except in the cases recorded by the late Sir W. Barrett, resemble folk-tales relating to these appearances rather than genuine experiences. Of the ancestral ghosts, some are already familiar to students of folklore, among them being the Gormanstown foxes, real foxes which on one occasion appeared